

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2016 11:14 PM
To: King, Colbert
Cc: Walton, Lindsey (Council)
Subject: Re: DC Government and Trump Organization

Colby,

I just saw your email. You ask my comment regarding the district government's response to the FOIA request. It seems to me to that full disclosure is in the best interest of the government. If a bad deal, or an unpopular deal, was entered into by the government, the public should know and we'll have to deal with the consequences. As they sometimes say regarding legal matters, the coverup is worse than the truth. I don't know if there is a cover-up, but the analogy still fits.

As for what I have known about the Trump Hotel having exclusive priority use of a traffic lane, I've only just learned of this. Similarly, I have no knowledge of what agreements the District government has entered into with Trump regarding the use of public space around the hotel. I've never been briefed on the development, and have thought it to be The result of negotiations with the federal government. Nothing has come before the council.

If you want any further comment from me, it is better to call. [REDACTED] - [REDACTED].

-Phil

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2016, at 11:32 AM, King, Colbert <Colbert.King@washpost.com> wrote:

Chairman Mendelson: As you may know, the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund (PCJF), a non-profit group which advocates for the rights of free speech and assembly, has filed a lawsuit that seeks release of information held by the D.C. Government regarding aspects of the "deal" reached with the Trump Organization to turn the historic Old Post Office on Pennsylvania Avenue into the Trump International Hotel.

The suit specifically seeks "disclosure of information regarding agreements entered into by the District of Columbia that appear to take public space on 'America's Main Street' traditionally open for First Amendment-protected free speech and dissent, and create a 'buffer zone' around the Trump Hotel restricting access to exclusive or priority use of the Trump Organization."

I wrote about this development in a Washington Post Column last Saturday. ("August 5. Win or Lose in November, Trump will be a presence on Pennsylvania Avenue <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>)

I am struck by the role played by the D.C. Government in this matter. I intent to return to the topic in this week's column with special attention to the Bowser administration's handling of PCJF's requests for information.

The information sought by PCJF includes documents, communications, applications, evaluations, permits and agreements regarding the use of public sidewalk and/or street spacing abutting the Trump Hotel.

The PCJF said it has sought this information via a Freedom of Information Act request for over five months, yet the District Government has refused to produce any responsive information despite a legal obligation to make such information public.

I find it difficult to understand why the District Government would be resisting a legitimate effort to discover-which the public is entitled to know-whether and to what extent their government has entered into an agreement that could suppress or extinguish free speech in proximity to the building leased to the Trump Organization.

As the PCJF cites in its lawsuit, the Trump Organization is "led by a presidential candidate who has stated an extraordinary and open hostility to the First Amendment. Trump has called for protesters to be 'roughed up' and 'carried out on a stretcher,' offered to pay the legal fees of persons who assault protesters, deployed security who have assaulted protesters and destroyed protest signs outside the Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in New York City, suggested he would be in favor of 'closing' the internet under certain circumstances, indicated that he would like to rewrite libel laws to suppress unflattering press coverage, and revoked press credentials from The Washington Post, The Huffington Post, BuzzFeed, Univision, The Daily Beast, The Des Moines Register and Politico."

The lawsuit details the responses to the FOIA requests by the Executive Office of the Mayor, specifically by FOIA Officer Jim Slattery and the Metropolitan Police Department, specifically by FOIA Officer Donald Kaufman.

I intend to cite their responses at length.

District citizens have a right see how their government handles legal obligations regarding public records disclosure under FOIA.

I seek comment from you regarding the District government's responses to the PCJF FOIA requests.

I also wish to know if you, in your official capacity as DC Council Chairman with oversight responsibility for the District Government, are aware that the Trump Organization has been granted by the DC Government the exclusive priority use of a traffic lane on Pennsylvania Avenue or if you know whether the DC

Government has entered into agreements with the Trump Organization regarding the use of public space (i.e. sidewalk and street space.)

I hope to file my column, including relevant comments from you, early Thursday morning.

In addition to my email (kingc@washpost.com), I can be reached by phone at [REDACTED]-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED] (mobile) or [REDACTED]-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED] (landline).

I am also willing to meet if you wish.

Colbert I. King

Columnist

The Washington Post

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Sunday, August 14, 2016 3:25 PM
To: Efros, Ellen (Council)
Subject: RE: Do u need to speak with me.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Efros, Ellen (Council)
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 1:51 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL) <PMENDELSON@DCCOUNCIL.US>
Subject: Do u need to speak with me.

Do you want me to call you in about 1 hr?

Ellen

Sent from my iPhone

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Friday, December 2, 2016 1:23 PM
To: Walton, Lindsey (Council)
Subject: FW: Statement by Community Organizations & Labor Leaders Call on "Moratorium"
Attachments: Statement on Chairman Mendelson moratorium.pdf

From: Elizabeth Falcon [mailto:elizabeth@dcjwj.org]
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 12:58 PM
Subject: Statement by Community Organizations & Labor Leaders Call on "Moratorium"

Dear members of the DC Council,

Please see below and attached a statement from labor and community leaders.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, December 2, 2016

CONTACT: Ari Schwartz DC Jobs With Justice; ari@dcjwj.org or 202-674-3228

Community Organizations & Labor Leaders Call on Chairman Mendelson to Renounce “Moratorium”

On the eve of a Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress, D.C. Council Chairman shockingly announces refusal to consider further progressive legislation.

Washington, D.C. – Community organizations and labor unions applaud the news that the Universal Paid Leave Act will move to a vote in the D.C. Council on December 6th and look forward to it passing by the end of the year. But in announcing a revised proposal of the legislation on Tuesday, D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson [buried a brief and shocking statement](#) at the end of his press release. Seemingly to placate businesses that “may be unhappy that this bill establishes a new tax on them,” the Chairman said he will “support a two-year moratorium on the adoption of similar bills, such as mandating scheduling requirements or nurse staffing ratios in hospitals.”

Various community organizations and labor unions that advocate for and represent working people across the District were stunned and deeply concerned to see the Chairman make such an unprecedented statement.

Elizabeth Falcon, Executive Director of DC Jobs With Justice, called Chairman Mendelson's statement "the opposite of the leadership we need in this new era." She said, "The Council will improve the lives of thousands of District residents when it passes Paid Family Leave. But that alone is not enough to have a good life in the District. Workers already face barriers to enough work, dignified working conditions, and opportunities for real careers. And what new issues will emerge over the next two years? Abandoning the Council's responsibility to ensure those basic needs is shocking to us."

Kimberly Mitchell, a Ward 7 resident and retail worker, said, "My bills don't stop for two years. My family's needs don't stop for two years. My neighbors can't stop worrying about being pushed out for two years. Why should the Chairman stop doing his job for two years?"

Jacob Feinspan, Executive Director of Jews United for Justice and a key advocate of the paid family leave bill, said, "we were disappointed that Mr. Mendelson introduced a revised paid family leave bill that falls far short of the real needs of District residents by cutting out medical leave, and it is further troubling that he would threaten to prevent future action on commonsense measures to help the District's working families."

Carlos Jimenez, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, said the Metro Council is "extremely concerned that there has been a reference to a moratorium on future economic legislation that would benefit working families, including discussions on safe staffing ratios and fair scheduling practices." However, "today we're focused on winning passage of paid leave. Skyrocketing inequality and new threats from the incoming administration mean our elected officials must do even more for working people, not less. Paid Family Leave is a huge step forward, but the Council's work does not end there."

Carol Joyner, Director for the Labor Project for Working Families, said, "We live a 'tale of two cities' reality in DC and a moratorium on improvements to job quality only legislates that reality. UPLA as currently proposed already has significant concessions to big business: most notably, the lack of coverage for one's own medical care and the narrow definition of family. These concessions along with a moratorium will only exacerbate the race and ethnic disparities in our city."

Valerie Ervin of the Working Families Party underscored the need to double down and not back away from fighting for a more inclusive and just Washington, D.C. "Now more than ever we need the chairman and the D.C. Council to lead by example. In the era of Trump, when working people will come under an unprecedented assault, we cannot afford to leave families behind. We must reject the Chairman's zero sum mentality and recognize that we can only thrive as a community when everyone has a chance to succeed."

Ellen Bravo, Executive Director of Family Values at Work, said, “While we commend Chair Mendelson and the DC Council for the introduction of UPLA, we are deeply concerned to hear the Chair call for a moratorium on other actions that will help the District’s overworked, underpaid residents. Paid family and medical leave is critical for all workers, as are predictable schedules, fair wages, and high quality health care. The District has an opportunity to be a leader in the nation for all workers, especially the most disenfranchised. We need a Council that will be there for all DC residents, regardless of their ward, wealth, or working status.”

Mark Federici, President of UFCW Local 400, said, "Day in and day out, the men and women of UFCW Local 400 work hard to meet the needs of shoppers in the District's grocery and retail stores. It's deeply disappointing to learn that the Chairman of the D.C. Council refuses to work just as hard to meet their needs."

Reverend Graylan S. Hagler of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ said, “On the eve of a new administration that promises to champion countless attacks on hardworking families, it’s utterly shocking that the chairman would promise to halt all progressive legislation in the District for the first two years of the Trump presidency.”

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You can find Chairman Mendelson’s statement [here](#).

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Elizabeth Falcon
Executive Director
DC Jobs with Justice
www.dcjjw.org
202-674-2872
1875 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20009

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 6:59 AM
To: Smith, Nyasha (Council)
Cc: DeWitt, Jeffrey (OCFO); Budoff, Jennifer (Council)
Subject: Retreat -- CFO

Nyasha,
Jeff and I have talked about the retreat.

[REDACTED]

- Phil

Sent from my iPhone

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:41 AM
To: ana.r.harvey@[REDACTED]
Cc: Wynn, Monique (COUNCIL)
Subject: draft letter to Cynthia Lopez

Ana, Is this ok?

The Honorable Cynthia López Castro

Dear Cynthia,

I apologize that I have not written sooner to thank you for all that you did when Ana and I visited Mexico City the weekend of January 20th. Although Ana grew up in Mexico City, this was my first visit. It was unique for the various official activities in which I participated on the 20th. I couldn't have done it without your help, and indeed you made the day – and the visit – much easier.

I recall that you said you might come to Washington, D.C. again this May. Please, if you do, or whenever, let Ana and me know. We would like to return the hospitality you showed.

It was remarkable to visit the Constituent Congress and meet with your colleagues on the same day Donald Trump took the office as United States President. I am far from alone in my country in deploring the policies he espouses. We should encourage relations with our neighbors – building bridges, not walls, as I heard many people say during my visit with you.

Again, Ana and I say thank you. Please let us know when you visit.

Sincerely,

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:05 AM
To: Henry, Alicia (Council)
Cc: Wynn, Monique (COUNCIL)
Subject: Invitation to speak
Attachments: Mendelson Letter2.docx

Alicia, please follow up. I'd like to do this if my schedule permits. Note that Claudia's email says May 5 and the attached letter says May 3. Call her. Thanks.

-Phil

From: CLAUDIA MCKOIN [mailto:clim2000@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:16 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Subject: ahenry@dccouncil.us

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Attached is a letter requesting your participation in a discussion on the impact of the federal government, especially the President's proposed budget, and its affect on DC programs. The program is being sponsored by the local DC Links, Incorporated chapters. The program will be held on May 5, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., in Room G-9 of the John A. Wilson Building. I hope that you will be able to participate.

Claudia McKoin

Area Representative

The Links, Inc.

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 12:14 PM
To: Walton, Lindsey (Council)
Subject: newsletter

BUDGET UPDATE

What's The Secret?

By the end of this month, the Council will have concluded its work on the budget for next fiscal year, which begins October 1st. Although the final decision rests with the Council, once again the Mayor has hampered our efforts by withholding information.

The situation is serious enough that I wrote Mayor Bowser May 5th asking that she allow agency directors to release their so-called "enhancement requests." These documents reveal unfunded needs.

The adoption of a fiscal year budget is supposed to be a collaborative process with the Mayor proposing a balanced budget, the Council considering the proposal together with public comment and adopting the budget with revisions, and then the Mayor accepting or rejecting the Council's budget through the enactment process. Given that it is the Council that adopts the final budget, it is important that the agencies share with the Council their perceived needs. This supporting financial and statistical information ensures that the Council understands the effect of its action when it adopts a fiscal year budget.

I do not understand the justification for muzzling the subordinate agencies by not only refusing to submit the enhancement requests, but even to go further and deny that there were even any requests at variance with the Mayor's budget submission. The Council is handicapped in its ability to adopt an informed budget.

It is for this reason that D.C. Official Code § 47-318.05a requires explicitly that the Mayor provide "Actual copies, not summaries, of all agency budget enhancement requests, including the 'Form B' for all District agencies."

In other words, these are public documents.

I get that information is power, and therefore controlling (withholding) information may be powerful. But that isn't good if the goal is to achieve the best possible budget in the *public* interest.

Challenges:

As in years past, public education and safety net issues have dominated the discussion.

Although a Mayoral task force recently recommended that the Uniform Per Pupil Funding Formula (UPPFF) be increased 3.5%, the Mayor's proposed budget provides only 1.5%. However, the Administration expects a new collective bargaining agreement will be reached with the Washington Teachers Union, and monies needed for wage increases will be added to the UPPFF.

Many councilmembers believe this is not enough, and I expect the Council will add even more money. I share the concern that when adjusted for inflation, the public education budget on a per pupil basis has fallen slightly in the past 10 years. Public education is our best tool to ensure equality and opportunity in the long run for all our citizens. The primary safety net issues are homelessness and affordable housing. The Mayor added over \$10 million for housing to help individuals and families exit homeless shelters. But this increase does not keep pace with her own plan ("*Homeward D.C.*"), adopted in 2015, to reduce homelessness.

I expect the Council will revise the budget in several ways to reduce homelessness: improve TANF benefits so that extremely poor families are less likely to fall into homelessness; establish a "civil Gideon" program that provides counsel to indigent families in landlord/tenant court to stave off evictions; and increase funding for rent vouchers and permanent supportive housing units to increase shelter exits. Each of these would be changes to the budget proposed by the Mayor.

Another challenge is what to do about threats to federal funding in the Trump era. Councilmembers generally agree that there is no easy way to budget for this. Moreover, we have over \$1 billion in our reserves (rainy day fund), and this would be available to help should we suddenly be hit with federal cuts.

Finally, WMATA needs a substantial increase, funds that would be a new, dedicated revenue. District officials support a regional sales tax. If adopted by Maryland and Virginia, this would enable WMATA to undertake the capital improvements necessary for safety and reliability.

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Mark Rodeffer
Subject: RE: Please take climate change seriously

Dear Mr. Rodeffer,

The Council and the District government take climate change seriously, as evidenced by numerous actions time and again such as leading the region with our renewable portfolio standard. I share your dislike for what President Trump has done. We did reduce the energy development fund, because it is otherwise projected to have a \$19.8 million balance at the end of next year -- \$121 thousand less than the projected balance at the end of this year. The Mayor proposed spending \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2018 and we authorized exactly what was requested. There will remain a surplus of over \$12 million at the end of next year.

Regarding the streetcars, I have received a number of emails about the alleged cuts, but they are based on what seems to be one reader's misunderstanding of the budget which then got echoed by others. I double checked with the Council's Budget Office and I am pasting below an explanation of what we actually did with the streetcar budget. The Benning Road Extension can still be completed.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

-Phil Mendelson

Explanation of Council's Actions Concerning the Budget for Streetcars

At my recommendation, the Council voted Tuesday May 30th for a budget (six-year Capital Improvement Plan, or "CIP") that included a reduction of \$60.7 million in the streetcar project. Some have said this means that the extension of the streetcar along Benning Road east of the Anacostia River "will have to wait six years or forever." This is not correct.

The three CIP components that comprise the streetcar project total \$224.2 million in the budget adopted by the Council. DDOT's spending plan for the Benning Road extension, including work on the Whitlock Bridge just west of Minnesota Avenue, totals less: \$199 million.

DDOT's spending plan calls for \$76 million through FY 2020, and the Council's budget authorizes more -- \$82.7 million -- through FY 2020. Funding in the last three years of the CIP (2021-2023), as adopted by the Council, is one year slower than DDOT's spending plan.


The claim that the Council has delayed the Benning extension "six years or forever" is false.

What the Council did cut is funding for other streetcar efforts, including design of the Union Station to Georgetown line, a propulsion study, vehicle design, and replacement of existing vehicles.

The execution of the streetcar project over the past decade has been horribly botched, and the project is wildly unpopular throughout the city. Billed as an alternative transportation system for commuters, it is currently a

novelty and is likely to remain so. And yet many hundreds of millions of dollars has been spent – already – on a single line that remains incomplete.

It makes sense that the H Street/Benning line should connect to the Metro system at Union Station and Benning Road. Period.

From: Mark Rodeffer [mailto:rodeffer@
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 12:03 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Subject: Please take climate change seriously

Chairman Mendelson:

Please take climate change seriously. The president does not. Now is the time for cities to act. Now is not the time to cut \$7.5 million dollars from solar energy.

I'm also very disappointed that you have again decided to make major cuts last-minute to the Streetcar. As D.C. grows, we cannot build more roads, the planet cannot handle more auto pollution, and we must expand transit.

Chairman Mendelson, please show you understand climate change in a way the president does not by reversing both of the dangerous cuts.

Mark Rodeffer

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 6:29 PM
To: Smith, Nyasha (Council)
Subject: RE: Channel 13

A Councilmember may hold a community meeting on any issue he or she wants. But a committee chair can hold a committee/council hearing only on matters within the scope of his or her committee. My understanding is that generally you do not commit Council resources (e.g., AV) to any forum that is not a committee/council hearing. That would apply as well to Channel 13, unless they cover non-Council events.

From: Smith, Nyasha (Council)
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 9:43 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL) ; Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FW: Channel 13

From: Giles, Jessica (Council)
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 1:24 PM
To: Taylor, Jamaine A. (Council) <JTaylor@DCCOUNCIL.US>
Cc: Smith, Nyasha (Council) <NSmith@DCCOUNCIL.US>
Subject: RE: Channel 13

Hi Jamaine and Nyasha,

We have rescheduled the hearing for Monday, July 10th from 6-8pm in the auditorium of the Columbia Heights Education Campus. We would like for it broadcasted. I've attached the hearing notice that was just filed to this email.

Thanks for your help.

Jess

Jess Giles, Legislative Assistant
Councilmember At-Large David Grosso
Council of the District of Columbia

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.

Suite 402

Washington, D.C. 20004

Office: (202) 724-7807

www.davidgrosso.org

Get David's email updates: <http://eepurl.com/ctfTor>

Follow David:



From: Taylor, Jamaine A. (Council)

Sent: Friday, June 16, 2017 2:30 PM

To: Giles, Jessica (Council) <jgiles@DCCOUNCIL.US>

Cc: Smith, Nyasha (Council) <NSmith@DCCOUNCIL.US>

Subject: RE: Channel 13

Jessica,

OCTFME added the event to their coverage schedule.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jamaine

Jamaine A. Taylor

Assistant Secretary to the Council

Council of the District of Columbia

John A. Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 5

Washington, DC 20004

Telephone: (202) 724-8080

Mobile: (202) 615-4797

Facsimile: (202) 347-3070

E-mail: jtaylor@dccouncil.us



From: Giles, Jessica (Council)

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 10:13 AM

To: Taylor, Jamaine A. (Council) <JTaylor@DCCOUNCIL.US>

Cc: Smith, Nyasha (Council) <NSmith@DCCOUNCIL.US>

Subject: Re: Channel 13

Ok, thanks so much.

From: Taylor, Jamaine A. (Council)

Sent: Thursday, 15 June 2017 10:10 AM

To: Giles, Jessica (Council)

Cc: Smith, Nyasha (Council)

Subject: RE: Channel 13

Jess,

We will reach out to OCTFME but please note that offsite events are not broadcast live on Channel 13, so if they provide coverage, the event will be taped, edited and broadcast at a later date.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jamaine

Jamaine A. Taylor
Assistant Secretary to the Council
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 5
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: (202) 724-8080
Mobile: (202) 615-4797
Facsimile: (202) 347-3070
E-mail: jtaylor@dccouncil.us



From: Giles, Jessica (Council)
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 10:00 AM
To: Smith, Nyasha (Council) <NSmith@DCCOUNCIL.US>; Taylor, Jamaine A. (Council) <JTaylor@DCCOUNCIL.US>
Subject: Channel 13

Hi Nyasha and Jamaine,

Councilmember Grosso is requesting that our roundtable on Monday, June 19 from 6-8pm is broadcasted on Channel 13. Can we get those services set up? My apologies for the delayed request.

Sincerely,
Jess

Jess Giles, Legislative Assistant
Councilmember At-Large David Grosso
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Suite 402
Washington, D.C. 20004
Office: (202) 724-7807
www.davidgrosso.org
Get David's email updates: <http://eepurl.com/ctfTor>
Follow David:



Smith, Brackett W. (Council)


From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 6:48 AM
To: Johnson, Peter (Council)
Subject: Legal issue

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Henry, Alicia (Council) on behalf of Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 11:18 AM
To: Henry, Alicia (Council)
Subject: FW: IMPEACH PARTY
Attachments: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer.pdf

From: shirley smith [mailto:srs-usasc@
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 2:36 PM
To: shirley smith
Subject: IMPEACH PARTY

SAVE THE DATE!

I don't know about you, but for me, this week's events have made it clearer than ever that we have no time to waste in impeaching President Trump. The GOP, instead of moving to curb the powers of this lawless president, is now in the process of helping him purge the Department of Justice and law enforcement officials who put the Constitution first. It's terrifying stuff.

We must do something because the GOP has shown us that they support his actions.

Go line to learn more at www.NeedtoImpeach.com and come to the IMPEACH PARTY.

HSC

Saturday, February 17, 20018

1731 Bunker Hill Road, NE

Washington, DC 20018

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

The flier is attached.

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 6:59 AM
To: Johnson, Peter (Council)
Subject: Federal funding

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 1:57 PM
To: O'Meara, Kelly (MPD)
Cc: Hawthorne, Sydney (Council)
Subject: noise legislation

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2019 7:22 PM
To: Budoff, Jennifer (Council)
Subject: questions

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 3:34 PM
To: Cash, Evan W. (Council); Setlow, Christina (Council); Johnson, Peter (Council)
Subject: Can you think of topics for the Mayor/Council breakfast?

Smith, Brackett W. (Council)

From: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 7:34 PM
To: Neal Kirsch
Cc: Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)
Subject: RE: Local Tax Increases

Mr. Kirsch,

It has been a while since I saw the data from our Chief Financial Officer, but as I recall, about half of DC residents would pay higher DC taxes under the new federal tax scheme, but of those, roughly two-thirds would pay so much less federal taxes that the combined burden would be less. In other words, as I recall about 17% of DC taxpayers would pay a combined total that is more. Further, it was neither lower income nor high income individuals, but high middle income residents who would pay a combined total that is more. However, sorting this out with legislation to reverse the impact on DC taxpayers is not simple; simply coupling or decoupling from the federal tax code wouldn't fix it. I don't think Councilmember Cheh's bill, which you describe as "separate[ing] DC from Federal taxes" actually did the trick.

As I recall, the Trump tax cuts resulted in the District gaining about \$40 million in revenues. Last year, when Mayor Bowser submitted her proposed budget for the current fiscal year, she took the increased revenue, added it to the General Fund, and then spread it to use for programs. The Council accepted her proposal rather than find cuts.

Our local income tax remains progressive and fair. Over the last five years we have lowered the DC income tax burden on all but those earning over \$500,000 per year. But revising the DC tax code to compensate for federal tax mistakes is something this government (Mayor and Council) has been willing to do. I'm hopeful that within a few years Congress will take action to fix what they did in December 2017.

Thank you for writing.

-Phil Mendelson

From: Neal Kirsch [mailto:kirschneal@]
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 1:51 PM
To: Bowser, Muriel (EOM) ; Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL) ; Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)
Cc: Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL) ; Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL) ; Price, Destiny (Council) ; eom@dc.gov
Subject: Local Tax Increases

Dear Ms. Mayor and Councilmembers Mendelson and Evans:

I have not heard from any of you so I thought I would follow up. I heard immediately from my Ward 3 council member Cheh. She informed me that she created legislation that would separate DC from Federal taxes. She said that Councilman Evans would not even give it a hearing in the Finance Committee. I personally find it outrageous that the Finance committee would not even consider legislation that could help tens of thousands of residents deal with a new and unfair tax burden.

I would still like to hear from all of you your positions on the topic. I have copied some of your aides on this email in hopes of generating a response.

Respectfully,
Neal Kirsch
Ward 3 Resident

Neal Kirsch
[REDACTED]

From: "[kirschneal@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:kirschneal@[REDACTED])" <[kirschneal@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:kirschneal@[REDACTED])>
Date: Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 4:01 PM
To: "muriel.bowser@dc.gov" <muriel.bowser@dc.gov>
Cc: "pmendelson@dccouncil.us" <pmendelson@dccouncil.us>, "mcheh@dccouncil.us" <mcheh@dccouncil.us>, "jevans@dccouncil.us" <jevans@dccouncil.us>
Subject: Local Tax Increases

Dear Ms. Mayor and Councilmembers Cheh, Mendelson and Evans:

I live in Ward 3 and am one of the many residents who used the State And Local Tax (SALT) deduction on my federal returns. As you know, this deduction results in a lower adjusted gross income which is the starting point for DC tax calculations. With the elimination of the SALT my adjusted gross income is going to rise which will result in higher federal and higher DC taxes. You should provide that residents can adjust their DC taxes to account for the SALT. Otherwise this becomes a free windfall to the DC government at the expense of tens of thousands of residents who already pay some of the highest local taxes in the nation.

I'd like to know from all of you why this situation has not been addressed and whether you plan to take any action to mitigate this problem. Or do you tacitly support President Trump and the Republican tax agenda because it yields higher local taxes to the DC government.

Thank you for your time.

Neal Kirsch
[REDACTED]

Washington, DC [REDACTED]